File No. 876

*19*36.

Collection No.

Mysore Residency
Bangalore

Pros. Serial Nos. 1 - 6

Subject.

Control of buggar nuisance in the C & M Station of Bangalore

Previous References.

Fr. 151 of 1922.

Later References.

1284/37

S. 97.—(Blue).

MFP—1367 S&P—(M-1907)—8-3-35—60,000.

NOTES AND PRECIS.

D.No. 4205 S.N.1

1

paras. 7 to 14 of notes in F. 151-22 1(K)

para. 4 (a) of notes -do- 2

The question of dealing with the 'beggar nuisance' in the Civil and Military Station was raised in the past more than once. There were also criticisms and suggestions with regard to this question in the local press.

Rigorous imprisonment was considered to be the most satisfactory remedy for the able-bodied beggar; and a provision to this end was made in the Bangalore Civil and Military Station Police Law, 1927- vide section 64 of the Law.

page 165 of Police Orders

3

S.N.1 F. 151-22 1(C)

It was suggested in 1923 that a scheme might be found for starting a beggars' home or shelter if some assistance from the public could be assured. But nothing appears to have been done in this behalf.

Before examining the question in greater detail it seems advisable to ascertain the views of the Collector. Draft submitted.

KH 11.6.36

The Southern Division Rate-payers' Association have addressed their reference to three authorities. This Residency is one of the authorities, but we are not directly concerned; in the circumstances it seems our best course is to send a simple acknowledgment.

* Marks alternative

A draft is put up.

16.6.36

26.6.36

Secy.

S.N. (2) Issue.

D.No.8743 S.N.(3).

6

Please see S.Ns.1 and 2 and para 5 of notes.

7

The S.D.R.A's argument seems to be that inability to provide funds is not a sufficient justification for the Commission to turn down the proposal to construct a Beggars' Home, just as inability to pay is not a sufficient excuse for the citizen not to pay his taxes. This of course is not a sound argument and deserves no consideration..

We may simply acknowledge the receipt of the letter, as was done last time. Draft submitted.

11.9.36

A.S.

9

Yes. Issue. But in this occasion a direct request is made to us. Wait for a reminder.

12/9/36.

Issue S.N.(4).

D.No.10231. S.N. (5).

10

May be acknowledged? Draft submitted.

19.9.36

A/S.

20.10.

S.N.(6) Issue.

Record

T.B.T.

CORRESPONDENCE.

S-IV-1

Southern Division Rate-payers' Association

CIVIL & MILITARY STATION, BANGALORE

(Registered under Act xxi of 1860).

Secretary's Office—"DOVEDALE", REST HOUSE CRESCENT,

Bangalore, the 6th May 193 6

Ref. No. 504/36.

21/5/36

Sir,

THE BEGGAR PROBLEM.

I am desired to refer to my letter No.429/35, dated the 21st Nov.'35, on the above subject and to convey the thanks of my Committee for the action taken by Mr.Brislee in appointing a Special Sub-Committee to investigate the problem and to make suggestions and also for the sustained interest evinced by him on the subject during your absence on leave out of India. They have little doubt that you will continue to keep alive that interest.

2. Meetings have been held both by the Commission and by the public to consider the best means of solving the problem. That no solution whatever has so far been found is, my Committee consider, due to the entirely incorrect and misleading statements made by certain Commissioners at these meetings. For instance, when a leader like the Vice-President states that it is a farce for the Municipal Commission to tackle this problem, which, he thinks, might be considered if it is made imperative by legislative measure that poor houses should be run by municipalities; and a lawyer like Mr.Sheriff charges supporters of the scheme with ignorance of the Municipal Regulations; and a third, taking his cue from the previous speakers, challenges one to prove that this is one of the primary or fundamental duties of the Commission, as reported in the press, is it no wonder any wonder that the unlearned ones amongst the audience were entirely misled and that the matter is at a standstill, so far as the Commission is concerned ? The matte was dis-

was discussed exhaustively at the meeting of my Committee, held on the 25th April '36, and I enclose a copy of a minute recorded thereon for your information.

3. It will be seen that if, before rising to the heights they attempted, these Commissioners had only opened the very basis of all Municipal Regulations in the Station - the Bangalore Municipal Law - they would have seen for themselves that, under Section 69 thereof, the construction, establishment and maintenance of poor-houses (Beggar Homes) is a statutory duty imposed on the Commission and that the expenditure involved therein is a legitimate charge against the Municipal Fund. I am desired to enquire whether you agree that this interpretation of the Section is correct and if so, whether you are willing to take steps to repair the mischief already done, Owing to the misdirection given by these leaders from the very outset. If, on the other hand, there are any subsequent enactments or notifications, overriding the provisions of this section, my Committee will be obliged if you will kindly draw their attention to them.

4. Assuming, for the present, that you agree that my Committee's interpretation is correct, the next question that arises is one of funds. My Committee are well aware that the Commission is not at present in possession of the large amount of funds required for the scheme and since the slightest additional taxation has been vehemently opposed, rightly or wrongly, at two distinct meetings of the Commission, the only course left open, if the scheme is not to be pigeon-holed, is for the Commission to make a serious attempt at realising its dues under the present scale of taxation. That the Commission is not realising all its dues in the shape of taxes on property, vehicles and animals, is a well known fact. They accordingly suggest that, as a first step towards the solution of this problem, action be taken under Section 53 of the Bangalore Municipal Law in respect of property and lands, and under Bye-

laws Nos.

laws Nos.3 & 3-A, in respect of vehicles and animals, notices being sent not only to those who may be "supposed to be liable to the payment of the tax" but to <u>every owner or occupier of a building in the Station, including the sub-tenants</u>.

5. Since the Committee meeting of the 25th April was held, the report of the Sub-Committee appointed by the Bangalore City Municipality to examine the problem and suggest remedies, has been published. It is a most valuable document and should prove very helpful in solving the problem in the C.& M. Station. For instance, ~~our~~ some Commissioners were greatly exercised over the probability of an in-rush of beggars from outside, if a Home was established in the Station. An effective remedy will be found in this report.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Hony. Secretary & Treasurer.

OFFICE OF H.E. RESIDENT IN MYSORE
BANGALORE.
8 MAY 1936
R. & I. No. 4735
Pol. No. ....

The President,
Municipal Commission, C.& M. Station, <u>BANGALORE</u>.

Copy (with a copy of the Minute referred to) to the Secretary to the Hon'ble the Resident in Mysore, Bangalore.

Copy to the Commissioner of Police, C.& M. Station, Bangalore (Refce- his letter No.973/G, dated the 25th July '35)

Extract from Minutes of Monthly Meeting No.4, held on 25.4.36.

4

5. The Beggar Problem - This was last mentioned at the General Meeting held on the 28th March '36, when it was remarked that the Commission could not be complimented on the attitude it had adopted towards this problem. It was added that it was concerning itself more with the subsidising of private libraries than having a care for the disabled and the infirm. It will be recalled that at the meeting of the 18th January, the Commission recorded the report of its sub-committee which suggested an increase of 1% in the property tax to meet the expenditure involved, in spite of the wise guidance of the then President (Mr.Brislee). A considerable amount of water had passed under the bridge since then. The "Baggalore Discussion Group" at a meeting held in this connection, came to the conclusion that the Municipality was shirking its duty and that it should be pressed to solve the problem. Miss Webster's proposition for a small increase of ½% only, in the taxes and for the isolation

of the

of the sheep from the wolves was turned down at the Commission's meeting of the 27th Feby; so was Mr.Paezold's amendment that the Commissioner of Police be requested to enforce an existing Bye-law which prohibits begging in any street or public place and that arrangements be made to send disabled beggars to the Anatha Asrayam, the Commission paying 3 am per head per day up to a maximum of 100 beggars. Then, again, a public meeting was held at the Bourdillon Y.M.C.A on the 14th March, at which the arguments on both sides were discussed. The main arguments put forward by the opposition at these meetings were:

(1) That the beggars were not a charge on Municipal revenues — One Commissioner said this was not a "Legitimate" charge against Municipal revenues, another, that it was not one of its "primary" duties, a third, while admitting that subjects like Education, Sanitation and Public Health were its "fundamental" duties, challenged a pro-Beggar Scheme speaker (Mr.Venkataramanan) to show that the beggar those question was amongst/ duties. That showed clearly that the opposing Commissioners were not agreed amongst themselves as regards the precise amount of responsibility, if any, resting on the Commission. It was made out that the Municipal Commission was bound by regulations, which were in the way, and yet, if this Commissioner had only looked through the regulations with ordinary care, he would not have spoken emphatically or thrown out a challenge. Now that he has done so, the Association accepts the challenge, as also the weapons suggested viz, the "Municipal Regulations". What does the Bangalore Municipal Law say on the subject ? The relevant provisions below are reproduced:-

"69 (2) Subject to the charges specified in Sub-section (1) and to such rules as the Resident may make with respect to the priority to be given to the several duties of the Commission, the Municipal Fund shall be applicable to the payment in whole or in part, of the charges and expenses incidental to the following matters, namely :-

* * * * * * * * * *

(c) the construction, establishment and maintenance of schools

schools, hospitals, dispensaries and other institutions for the promotion of education or the benefit of the public healt.. and of rest -houses, Chattrams, poor-houses, markets, encamping grounds, pounds and other works of public utility, and the control and administration of public institution of any of these descriptions;

(d) grants-in aid to schools, hospitals, dispensaries, poor-houses, leper asylums and other educational or charitable institutions;

* * * * * * * * * *

(k) All other acts and things which are likely to promote the safety, health, welfare or convenience of the inhabitants or expenditure whereon may be declared by the Commission with the sanction of the Resident, to be an appropriate charge on the Municipal Fund"

It does not require any special legal training to see from the above that Beggar Homes or Poor houses are a legitimate charge against the Municipal Fund and that under sub-section (c), poor houses have been placed on precisely the same footing as Education, Sanitation and Public Health referred to by the Commissioner. It is, of course, possible that rules may have been framed by the Resident in respect of priority but such rules, if any, cannot be inconsistent with the Act itself. Will the Commissioner, referred to kindly say whether he now agrees that the beggars are a legitimate charge against the Municipality and if not, where the "primary" and "fundamental" duties of the Commission have been laid down, quoting chapter and verse for his statement ?

(2) That taxation in the Station was already high and any further increase is resented by the rate-payers and that the Commission has no funds to pay for the scheme

C.& M.
With the statement that taxation in the/Station is high, no one will quarrel, but that it is the highest amongst all the Municipalities in India, as stated, requires substantiation. From a note which appeared in the Madras Mail only the other day re the Madras Corporation Budget it appeared that taxation in Madras worked up to 16⅜% as against 14% in the C.& M. Station. There must be other Muncipalities in India which levy a higher percentage than 14. Did the Commissioner verify his facts before making such a sweeping

assertion ?

assertion.

As regards the proposed increase, it will be recalled that the suggestion made by the Association was that the increase should affect owners of property, vehicles and animals, in which case the burden would have been spread more evenly, and not laid on owners of property alone, as suggested by the Sub-Committee of the Commission. It will ~~be~~ be interesting to know how the views of the rate-payers in regard to the proposed increase were obtained, whether by means of public meetings or by a referendum, and <u>when</u>, viz, whether before or after the last meeting of the Commission held on the subject. One Commissioner had gone so far as to declare that 90% of the rate-payers consulted were against the raising of the tax. It is, of course, possible to speak in percentages even if 3 individuals were consulted, but could he ~~xxxx~~ tell us definitely the precise or even the approximate number of rate-payers he actually consulted before the meetings of the Commission ? These Commissioners say the Commission has no funds and yet object, off their own bat, for all we know, to any increase in the taxes and expect philanthropists to finance the scheme. But no philanthropists have come forward although an invitation was extended to them months ago. Has the problem to be dropped without any effort on the part of the Commission on which rests the "fundamental", "primary" and even the ~~xxxxxxx~~ <u>statutory</u> responsibility as has already been shown ? There is, however, a way out of the difficulty, which will not affect either the Commissioners who have been trying to protect (sic) the interest of the rate-payers or even the would-be philanthropists. That is, as a local advertisement puts it, an "Internal Bath" for the Commission. That the Commission is not realising its "legitimate" dues under the present scale of taxation is known to every one. Then, why not make an attempt at securing these dues ? If, for instance, the Commission were to call upon, under Section 53 of the B.M.Law, the owners or occupiers of tenanted buildings or lands to specify

in writing

in writing the rents actually received and paid in respect of such buildings or lands and to send out for completion and return the form referred to in Bye-law 3, Chapter II of the Bye-laws in respect of ~~the~~ any vehicles and animals owned or kept by them, there will be enough funds and to spare, within a period of 1 to 2 years, to construct and maintain not merely a Beggars' Home but even Colonies and Settlements for Beggars. Threats of coercive measures are being freely used in the case of poor people who happen to be on the books of the Commission but well-to-do people go scot-free. Cases of understating of rents and of non-registration of vehicles (including cars) and animals are numerous and yet the Commission's cry is "no funds". If only it will make an attempt in this direction it will have all the money it needs. If, however, the funds should still be insufficient, the Commission ~~even~~ can safely lay its hands on Rs.12,000 a year from the Municipal Engineer's emoluments, without apprehending any sort of a protest from the rate-payers, apart from savings said to have been already effected in the Commission to the Municipal Auctioneers.

(3) Any additional taxation in connection with the Beggar Problem will prejudice the grant from the Govt.of India ~~in connection with~~ for the Water Supply Scheme - Some of the Commissioners appear to be taking the Govt.of India for a child. The Govt.of India certainly realise that they are not without responsibility in this matter and if any local body or province attempted seriously to put its house in order and provide for its beggars by resorting to additional taxation, if necessary, is that any reason why the Govt. of India should make that an excuse for insisting on additional taxation with a view to obviating the grant for the Water Supply Scheme?

(4) It is an all-India problem - Opening of a Home in the C.& M. Station will attract beggars from all over India

This argument appears to have been brought merely to evade responsibility. Any move in this direction, should

obviously

obviously be made in the units that go to make up the whole. If ~~merely~~ every local body or province started putting its own house in order and made provision for its own genuine , helpless beggars, the problem would soon be solved. If, on the other hand, our Commissioners were to wait for world problems, such as the economic depression, equitable distribution, etc., to be solved or until the question is taken up as an All-India one, they might as well wait till the crack of doom for a solution of the problem. To say that if the C.& M Station started a Home, beggars from other provinces would come rushing in, is hardly correct. The majority of beggars have taken to begging as a profession because they and, in some cases, their principals also, find it lucrative; and the Home would merely would find food and clothing, would offer no attraction to them. Even if what some of the Commissioners fear should come to pass, would it be beyond the limits of human ingenuity to concert measures to prevent the in-rush ?

The question arises who is to take the lead ? It has already been shown not only that it is not a farce for the Commission to tackle the problem but that the responsibility for constructing and maintaining poor -houses has been definitely imposed by Law on the Municipal Commission, the expenditure in this connection being met out of the "Municipal Fund"; also that ample funds will be available if the Commission made a serious attempt at realising its dues on the present scale of taxation. Why then should the S.D.R.A as suggested by some, or any one else, interfere with a statutory duty of the Commission ?. If nothing has so far been done in this matter, it is due entirely to the attitude adopted by certain Commissioners towards the problem. "Sentiment", "Emotional outburst", "Graping in the dark" and "Ignorance" are only a few of the expressions used by them when any one spoke in favour of the scheme. Are all these election cries ? "How can any one compare this Municipality with others whose revenue was 9 to 10 times greater than ours?" said one of them. May we not retort "How many Municipalities are

there

there in India whose officials draw Rs.1,450 per month even though their revenue is 9 to 10 times greater than ours We could afford to wait for a reply in due course, after a full enquiry. This same Commissioner dubbed the supporters of the scheme as arm-chair critics, who wrote one-sided stories and got them published in the Daily Post. Why does he not write the other side of it and get it published similarly ? Surely, the Editor will not refuse publication of his story ? These Commissioners considered that theirs was the only correct view but what were the concluding remarks of the Chairmen of the meetings held in Mayo Hall and at the Y.M.C.A. after hearing all the speakers ? Mr.Brislee plainly told them that to rely on philanthropists was to back the wrong horse. He added that he had made his remarks in that strain because he felt that there was some "loose-thinking" on the part of the opponents of the scheme (Will the Commissioners concerned please note !) And Miss Lakshmi, who presided at the Y.M.C.A. meeting, also thought that the Municipality, helped by the public nd philanthropists should solve the problem.

A certain remark which our friend Mr.Latheef permitted himself to make at the meeting in Mayo Hall cannot, however, be allowed to pass unnoticed. Commenting on this remark "One of the Despised Rate-payers" wrote to the Daily Post as follows :-

"Mr.Abdul Latheef, jerking his thumb towards the few visitors at the meeting tried to derive comfort by referring to the paucity of their numbers, as indicating the interest - or rather lack of interest - that the rate-payers who have such a lot to say about the Beggar Problem, take when the question is discussed. Is it, I ask, worth while putting oneself out to witness displays such as took place at the meeting of 27-2-36 ? Again, the provision made for visitors leaves much to be desired - see also the report of the proceedings of the meeting of the S.D.R.A appearing in the Daily Post of 26th Feby '36 - that one came with difficulty follow the proceedings at the Mayo Hall. Has any Municipal Commissioner tried to improve matters in this respect ? If not, how do these councillors expect the general public to evince an active interest in these meetings ? "

Major Waters, himself an ex Municipal Commissioner, who was one of the five visitors who attended the meeting, published his experience thus:-

"The meagre attendance of the public was referred to by Mr. Abdul Latheef as an example of the lack of interest of the tax-payers in the question at issue, or words to that effect. Although we were so few and in single line, it was most difficult to hear and follow the debate, etc, etc."

In another communication received by the Association, the writer said:

"Public opinion or interest cannot be gauged by the attendance at Municipal Meetings for it is pretty futile to attend at meetings at which it is not even possible for the front row to follow the proceedings! At a recent meeting, a neighbour and I were endeavouring to ascertain the result of one item, only to discover that they had passed on and were discussing the next!"

This precisely has been the experience of this Association and the complaint had been frequently ventilated in the press, but Mr. Latheef had apparently not read or heard of it! The Association had been told distinctly that the public should seat themselves at a convenient distance from the Commissioners. When an enquiry was made as to the precise import of that expression, the Association was invited to"come and see for itself". The "convenient distance" eventually proved to be further away than ever! It appears that Miss Webster did make an attempt to have the chairs put closer to the Municipal Commissioners, but they were put back in their former position. Did that show that the attendance of the public was desired at the meetings of the Commission? If Mr. Latheef should perchance see these lines, will he, before he jerks his thumb again, occupy just for once, with the permission of the President, one of the seats intended for the public and then tell us all about it?

After discussion, it was decided to address the President again, pointing out the Commission's statutory responsibility in the matter, indicating at the same time the ways and means suggested, which, again, were as laid down in the Law.

S.N.3

Southern Division Rate-payers' Association,

CIVIL & MILITARY STATION, BANGALORE.

(Registered under Act xxi of 1860).

13

Secretary's Office—"DOVEDALE", REST HOUSE CRESCENT,

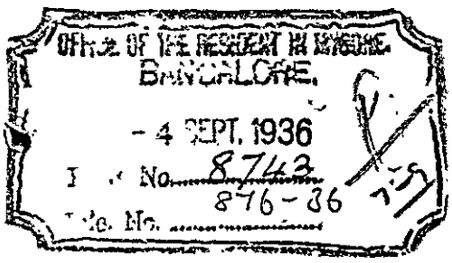
Bangalore, the 2nd September, *193*6.

Ref. No. 562/36.

Sir,

The Beggar Problem.

I am desired to forward for information, an extract para 7 of the Minutes of my Committee's Meeting (No.10), held on the 29th August. In this connection I am to invite your attention to my letter No.504/36, dated the 6th May,1936; and subsequent reminder, dated the 6th August, 1936, to which no reply has been received.



I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd) G. S. Rego,

Hony. Secretary and Treasurer.

The President, Municipal Commission,

C. & M. Station, Bangalore.

No. 563/36, dated the 2nd September, 1936.

Copy, with a copy of the extract referred to, forwarded to the Secretary to the Hon. the Resident in Mysore for information in continuation of my letter No. 504/36, dated the 6th May, 1936. All that my Committee would like to know is whether there is one law for the tax-payers and a different one for the Municipal Commission of the C. & M. Station, Bangalore.

Hony. Secretary & Treasurer.

Extract para 7 of the Minutes of Meeting (No.10) of the Committee of the S.D.R.A., held on the 29th August, 1936.

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7. The Beggar Problem - Thanks to Miss Webster, who had very kindly consented to table interpellations on the subject, some information had been elicited from the P.M.C. in regard to the attitude of the Commission in the matter. The interpellations and the replies thereto appeared in the issue of the "Daily Post" of the 27th August, though one of them appears to have been altered by the President to suit the reply intended to be given. The President, however, admits that expenditure on Beggar Homes is a charge against the Municipal Fund, though he rather tempers the B.M.Law by saying that such funds "may be applied for the purppse", whereas it is laid down in Sec. 69 of the B.M.Law that

"the Municipal Fund shall be applicable to the payment, in whole or in part, of the charges and expenses incidental to the following matters, namely:-

* * * * * * * *

... (c) the construction, establishment and maintenance of ..... and of rest-houses, chattrams, poor-houses .....".

If the expenditure on a specified object is a legitimate charge against the Municipal Fund, as admitted by the President, it follows that it is an obligation imposed on the Commission to incur such expenditure when the necessity for it has been established. The Commission could hardly evade responsibility under the plea of want of funds - the only other reason put forward for deciding that "the proposals of the Sub-Committe are impracticable". If the tax-payer attempted to put forward the same plea when the tax bill is presented, would the Commission accept it? The President says in effect that inability to provide funds is a sufficient justification for the Commission "to evade a statutory liability" (altered by the President to "passing the above resolution"). Surely the law is binding on the Commission just as much as on the rate-payer? As want of funds was the rock on which the Beggar Prob-

Problem was wrecked by the Commission, the Association had pointed out a source of potential revenue without raising the taxation That was that notices be ~~xxxxx~~ issued, as laid down in the law, on all owners of property and tenants, requiring them to state the rents received and paid by them, also in respect of vehicles and animals, it being a well known fact that the Commission was not realising all the revenue it was entitled to under the present scale of taxation. The reply to the interpellation on this point is that the President does not propose to adopt the S.D.R.A's suggestion and that the authority in such matters rests with the Commission. No one ever disputed the authority of the Commission but the reply given by the ~~Commissxxxx~~ President at once brings into relief the remarks made by the authorities in the past on the subject. Said Mr. W.P.Barton, the Resident, in 1925, in laying down the lines of enquiry into the financial position of the Municipal Commission:

> "There seems to be little doubt that Municipal finance stands in need of improvement..... It is urgently necessary to devise a scheme for keeping collections up to date. The opinion of the Special Officer on the question whether the house assessment operations have been conducted on thoroughly sound lines would be valuable. It is possible that this source of revenue has not been fully utilised..... There may be other possible sources of revenue to explore independently of the particular question....."

Said Mr. G.T.Boag, I.C.S., the Special Officer deputed for the investigation:

> "The powers conferred by the law seem to be adequate. It is in the application of these that there has been a lack of determination etc, etc".

Continues Mr. Boag:

> " From this statement it is clear that the Commission has become to an unhealthy extent dependent upon Govt. contributions to finance its normal activities, and that its normal expenditure is increasing out of all proportion to the increase in its revenues. Unless the Commission is to sacrifice its independence completely and assume the role of a Govt. pensioner, it must either devise a means of increasing its revenues or put a severe check upon its expenditure. For, in fact, the present situation is even worse than appears from the figures which, it will be noted, for the years 1924-25 and 1925-26 are estimates"

In view of the above, was the Association far wrong in drawing attention to a section of the Act which, if acted upon, would undoubtedly increase the Commission's revenue substantially?

A reference to the report of the meeting of the Commission held on the 30th July '36 will show whether the Commission is or is not "assuming the role of a Government pensioner".

S.N. 15 Rupees 20 F.6 (7P.

Southern Division Rate-payers' Association,

CIVIL & MILITARY STATION, BANGALORE.

(Registered under Act xxi of 1860).

S.W.S *Secretary's Office*—"DOVEDALE", REST HOUSE CRESCENT,

Bangalore, the 15th October *193* 6

Ref. No, 573/36.

Sir,

The Beggar Problem.

S.N.3 (R) c f.13 In continuation of my letter No.562/36, dated the 2nd Sept, I am desired to forward for information an extract para 8 of the minutes of my Committee's meeting (No.11), held on the 26th Sept '36 on the above subject.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd) G;S.Rego.
Hony.Secretary & Treasurer.

The President,
Municipal Commission,
C.& M. Station, Bangalore.

No.574/36.

Copy, with a copy of the extract referred to, forwarded for information with reference to your letter No.F.876-36/R.O.II, dated the 16th Sept '36. S.N.4 (R) c f.1;

Hony.Secretary & Treasurer.

The Secretary to the
Hon'ble the Resident in Mysore,
Bangalore.

OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT IN MYSORE
BANGALORE.
15 OCT 1936
Regd. No. 10231
File. No. 876/36

Extract from the minutes of meeting(No.11) of the Committee of the SD.R.A. held on the 26th Sept '36.

* * * * *

8. The Beggar Problem. - Letter, dated the 16th Sept '36 from the Secy to the Resident, acknowledging the receipt of the Association's letter forwarding an extract of the proceedings of the last monthly meeting on the subject was read.

In his replies to the interpellations tabled by Miss Webster at the Commission's meeting of the 27th August, the President, while admitting that the establishment and maintenance of poor houses wa s a statutory duty of the Commission, said that the decision of the Commission was not tantamount to a dereliction of duty; that the plea of inability to provide funds was a sufficient justification for the Commission in coming to the decision arrived at and added that he did not propose to adopt the S.D.R.A.'s suggestion in regard to the rai sing of funds (by calling upon owners and tenants to state the rents received and paid by them), the authority in such matters resting with the Commission. In the proceedings of the last Committee meeting, certain extracts were reproduced which showed that the Municipal Commission had been put on its guard against depending on the Govt grants for financing its normal activities.

In view of these extracts the following clauses which appear in the letter from the P.M.C. forwarding the latest Administration Report of the Commission to the Hon'ble the Resident are of interest.

"The Govt of India will, it is hoped continue the subvention to cover this deficit, as in the past. It would be more satisfactory however, if the annual subvention were a fixed amount which the Commission might expect as a certain contribution, instead of being made dependent on the state of the balances in this account"

In other words, the pension application of the Commission had been definitely put in-a contingency against which the Commission had been warned some 10 years ago. And yet, the President declines to explore a source of potential revenue suggested by the Association.

Why ? Is he afraid that some of the shining lights will get dimmed or extinguished ?

Quite apart from the finances of the ~~Commission~~ Commission Mr.Aiyer has pointed out (vide para 7, above) that the understating of rents by owners has had the effect of depriving tenants of their legitimate privilege of exercising their vote. "The plea for rejection says Mr. Aiyer, "is that the house of which the applicant is a tenant is under assessed" If so, this is a frank admission by the President M.C., that understating of rents is prevalent in the Station and when this results further in depriving the unoffending citizens of his vote, it was time the enquiry suggested by the Association was instituted.

* * * * *